

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 10, 2007, has been reviewed carefully and all independent claims have been amended in a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 17-23 are pending in the case. New claim 25 has been added to better claim the invention. New Claim 25 is supported by the Specification at Page 20, line 7 through Page 22, line 3 as well as at Page 33, lines 13-16 and Page 32, lines 16-22. Claims 21 and 24 have been cancelled

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the language that was formerly repeated in claim 6, thus it is believed that claim 6 complies with 35 U.S.C §112 in view of this amendment to claim 1. Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1, 6-8, 11 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,586,198 to Lakritz et al. (“Lakritz”), in view of United States Patent No. 5,197,810 to Zhang (“Zhang”).

Applicant's invention as set forth in representative amended independent claim 1 comprises in part:

A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine, comprising:

(A) *means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, wherein strokes are arranged in stroke categories, a component and a character;*

(B) means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and compounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese character;

(C) *means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character, or used to draw subcomponents of a character;*

(D) means for retrieving Chinese characters and compounds based upon stroke sequence, *and subcomponent selection*, said processing means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding processes based on said stored data; and

(E) means for display providing an indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display *wherein further candidate selection information is suggested in response to user selections and said candidate selection information includes components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent and eliminates other candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent.*

In sharp contrast, Lakritz describes a computer based approach to looking up characters in an ideographic alphabet in which a user specifies characters by dragging "individual character radicals from a radical palette to a canvas." (Abstract). Applicant's invention, as set forth in amended claim 1 is a simplified system that does not require the user to know and select radicals, instead the user can select subcomponents that are not necessarily "radicals."

The general descriptiveness of a radical is usually taken to mean either the root character (which is not always the first drawn) of which there are 214, or else the Bushou.

Applicant's invention, on the other hand, allows the user to select substructures, i.e., sub-components, which are the first drawn part of a character, but these subcomponents are not required to be the known radicals. (See: Specification at Page 25, lines 11-21). In fact, that is one of the advantages that the present invention has over the cited reference. More specifically, in the claimed invention, the user selects an element which is visually a subcomponent of the desired item; the user does not need to have previously memorized the known radicals. Then, after the selection of the subcomponent, the inventive system is programmed such that only those characters containing that explicit substructure are shown as candidates. (See Specification Page 23, lines 15-26). In this way, the user will arrive at the desired character after only a few key presses. In addition to limiting the number of keypresses, the inventive technique reduces user sequence errors. Lakritz alone does not teach Applicant's features of *means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, wherein strokes are arranged in stroke categories, a component and a character means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character, or used to draw subcomponents of a character and means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character, or used to draw subcomponents of a character, means for display providing an indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display wherein further character selection information is suggested in response to user selections and said candidate selection information in-*

cludes components that incorporate a user selected subcomponent and eliminates other candidates that do not include a user selected subcomponent.

Similarly, Zhang also bases its search process on “radicals” as quoted by the Examiner from Col. 6, lines 16-42 of Zhang. Zhang’s method assigns complete radicals and Bushou to a large number of keys. The system does not lend itself to Applicant’s *stroke arranged in stroke categories* and does not allow the use of *subcomponent selection*. Indeed, Zhang teaches away from Applicant’s invention because it requires the user to know the radicals comprising a character. Specifically, the Zhang abstract states that “All he/she has to do is to strike the corresponding keys *after disassembling* the Chinese character into the appropriate radicals.” (Emphasis added).

By complete contrast, the present invention requires only that a user enter the first few stroke categories in the traditional written order, not to have memorized radicals comprising each word. Even a casual user can very easily learn Applicant’s system. There are no pre-constructed elements on the keys that the user must identify. The present invention provides the user not only the literal possibilities of the stroke entries as they apply to stored characters, but also proposes to the user literal and predicted substructures. For example, if a user enters two horizontal strokes, the system of the present invention displays, in addition to the numbers two (two horizontal strokes) and three (three horizontal strokes), it also displays a distinct presentation of a three stroke substructure as might be used in the character “Chun” meaning spring. Thus, the invention presents to the user intermediate structures other than only complete characters and radicals, and reacts to the user’s selection thereof by eliminating non-complying candidates.

This allows the system to constrain the interpretation of the entries to only that form selected and this greatly simplifies the candidate list.

Thus, Zhang alone does not render Applicant's invention obvious. Furthermore, the combination of Lakritz and Zhang does not render Applicant's invention obvious, because even when combined, the two references do not disclose teach or suggest Applicants inventive features of *means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, wherein strokes are arranged in stroke categories, a component and a character, and means for processing said input information, being based upon an order of strokes used to draw said character, or used to draw subcomponents of a character, means for display providing an indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said display wherein further character selection information is suggested in response to user selection and said character selection information is limited based upon a user subcomponent* .

In order to enhance the claims, and to clarify the distinctions which the present invention has over the cited references, all of the independent claims have been amended herein. It is respectfully submitted that the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. Similarly, the dependent claims depend from what are believed to be allowable independent claims, and thus the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance. New claim 25 contains limitations similar to the features discussed herein, and it is respectfully submitted that new claim 25 is also allowable over the cited references.

Request for an Interview

After the Examiner has had an opportunity to review the amendments and arguments herein, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to schedule and interview to further the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

 /Rita M. Rooney/
Rita M. Rooney
Reg. No. 30,585
CESARI AND MCKENNA, LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue
Boston, MA 02210-2414
(617) 951-2500